

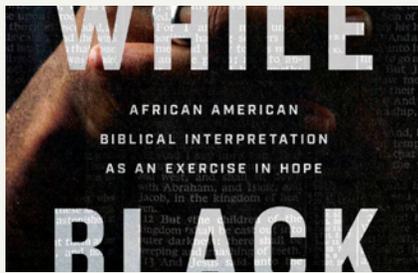


Grace Notes

The Newsletter of First Congregational Church

What's Inside

Book Study Group.....4



Camp-icopia!.....6



Epilogos Students.....6



Sunday Service2

Kick-off Sunday 9/112

Neighbors in Need2

September Calendar3

NHC-UCC Annual Mtg.....4

LISTEN Harvest Match5

2022 CROP Walk 10/95

Music at the Meetinghouse.....7

The Pastoral Perspective

In case you haven't noticed, there's a lot of odd stuff going on out there. Our state seems to attract its share of the off-beat—as Greg Moore, a Republican political operative unaffiliated with any ongoing campaign, recently described New Hampshire, “We’re not a red state, we’re not a blue state, we’re a weird state.”

You might wonder what has prompted this rumination. Well, I need to acknowledge our NH Conference of the UCC, which called to the attention of its weekly newsletter recipients a list that the Free State movement recently compiled, identifying allegedly “woke” churches in the Granite State.

Now, my understanding is that when you want people to know what you've said, you don't hide it, so I thought I could easily find this list of so-called “woke” faith communities with a simple Google search. Sadly, it wasn't so easy, and I had to do some serious digging on Twitter to find this “resource.” But I did, and after scrolling the list, I learned that we were there, which I'd expected given our affiliation with the UCC. And First Congregational Church of Lebanon is not alone; I quickly found our cohorts at the West Lebanon Congregational Church, along with those in Meriden and Hanover. Just to be ecumenical in my search, I also found the Lebanon United Methodist Church.

According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, the original meaning of *woke* was “well-informed, up-to-date,” which then evolved to “alert to racial or social discrimination and injustice.” The *Urban Dictionary*, meanwhile, explains that “being woke means being aware..., knowing what's going on in the community (related to racism and social injustice).” *Woke* has become a loaded term, and frankly, I'd just as soon stay away from the label, especially as it has been woefully misapplied. To some, *woke* indicates that one is a socialist or a Marxist, but I am neither of those things and never have been.

But, if *woke* simply means being decent—if it means inviting all of God's children into our midst, laying out the welcome mat for all people, indicating support for Ukraine, or making other similar gestures—then I guess I'm guilty of being woke. And I hope you are, too.

Continued on Page 4

SUNDAY SERVICE



SEPTEMBER 11—10:00 AM KICK-OFF SUNDAY!

Come share our annual inauguration of a new year for the **Children's Community Corner!** We are still working out some details, but we look forward to supporting FCC's kids as they start the school year. Still no bouncy house this year—but we'll bless backpacks and enjoy food and fun outside after worship. **Plan to join us!**

Spend Some Time in the Corner!

The **Children's Community Corner**, that is! We'd like to involve more of our congregation's adults in engaging with FCC's great kids on Sunday mornings. Volunteers will support the great work Nan Parsons and Ashley Oronte have done with our children.

Our purpose for this interaction is mentorship, not just supervision. Please consider offering your time to our young people—thanks!

If you're interested in volunteering or other ways to help, contact Nan Parsons directly at nlp3721@yahoo.com or 603-863-8354.

**A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF
Carolyn Barker Bassett (1933-2022)
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, AT 10:00 AM**

All Are Welcome to Worship at FCC Sundays at 10:00 am (Sanctuary/Zoom)

In-person worshipers are required to wear masks and observe distancing in the pews; we've not yet resumed regular coffee hour. Contact the church office with questions, or to receive the Zoom link.

Greeters and Liturgists Needed!

Congregation members sing in the choir, serve as ushers and Zoom greeters, and read as liturgists. Additional options include reading prayers, sharing stewardship messages, or even leading children's moments. **All are invited to serve in these essential roles, and no prior experience is needed (though Zoom greeting requires some basic training).**

If you're interested in these opportunities to serve, please contact the church office.

Neighbors in Need: Behold!—Special UCC Mission Offering This Fall

Neighbors in Need supports ministries of justice and compassion across the US. Two-thirds of the collection funds the UCC's **Justice and Witness Ministries** for local and national initiatives, advocacy efforts, and the fight against systemic injustice. The rest goes to the **Council for American Indian Ministry**, the voice for Native Americans in the UCC, sustaining a proud denominational tradition of assisting Native groups.

This year, NIN is focused on economic justice, amidst severe inflation and other challenges facing households nationwide.

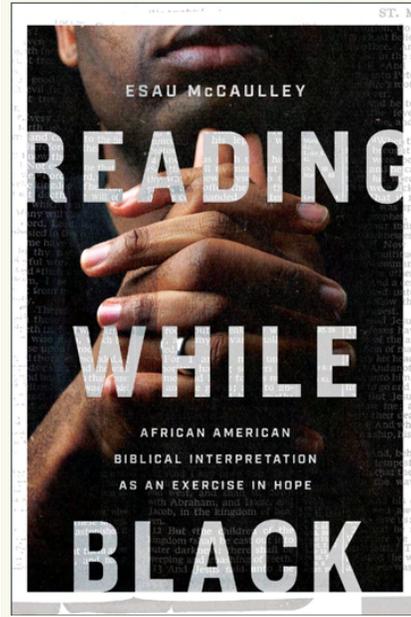
Please contribute as you are able, either payable to FCC (memo "NIN") or online at ucc.org/nin.



S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 10a Worship (Outdoors)	29	30	31 6p Bel Canto Auditions	1 7p NA Group	2	3
4 10a Worship (Communion)	5	6 4:15p FCC Choir (resumes)	7	8 7p NA Group	9	10
11 KICK-OFF SUNDAY 10a Worship/CCC	12 7p Diaconate	13 4:15p FCC Choir 7p Church Council	14 8a-4p NH-WIC 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers (resumes)	15 7p NA Group	16 7:30p Anon Coffeehouse	17 10a UVMC Music Together (front lawn)
18 10a Worship/CCC	19 4-8p UVMC Suzuki Program (resumes)	20 4:15p FCC Choir	21 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	22 11a-6p NH-WIC 7p NA Group	23	24 10a Celebration: Carolyn Bassett (1933-2022)
25 10a Worship/CCC 3p W. Ögmundson Concert	26 4-8p UVMC Suzuki Program	27 4:15p FCC Choir	28 7:30-9:30a Gr St United Way 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	29 7p NA Group	30 6-9p Leb Rec Quilters Retreat	1 9a-5p Leb Rec Quilters Retreat
2 10a Worship/CCC (Communion)	3 4-8p UVMC Suzuki Program	4 4:15p FCC Choir	5 7p Bel Canto Chamber Singers	6 7p NA Group	7	8

If you have questions or corrections regarding any event, please notify us at church@fccleb.org or 603-448-4281.



READING WHILE BLACK

Weekly Book Group Starts October 5 on Zoom

All are invited to join a weekly online discussion group exploring Esau McCaulley's *Reading While Black: African American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope* (2020). Prof. McCaulley, who is on the faculty of Wheaton College, is a Black Christian who has a powerful story to tell, and his book leads us to look at Scripture with fresh eyes. We'll discuss the book for seven Wednesdays on Zoom, beginning October 5.

Discussions will be Wednesdays at 7:00 pm on Zoom, starting October 5. Books provided free of charge, but you must reserve a copy by September 21. To RSVP or ask questions, please contact Rev. Steve Silver at silver@fcclcb.org or 603-448-4281.

NHC-UCC ANNUAL MEETING 2022

All are invited—lay or ordained leaders, congregation members, friends, visitors—to participate in the **221st Annual Meeting** of the NH Conference of the UCC. The theme is inspired by Psalms 40 and 96: “O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.” The keynote speaker is musician and composer Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, who teaches across denominations about music and spiritual formation. He’s currently immersed in a long-term study of the Psalms.

Sing a New Song



Saturday, October 15 (Register by 9/26)
Grappone Conference Center, Concord

In addition to worship, the business meeting, and other plenary events on October 15, optional connecting sessions run online from September 29 through October 19. For complete details and schedule, visit the NH Conference meeting webpage—www.nhcucc.org/conference-ministries/2022-annual-meeting.

FCC will pay for up to four delegates to attend (either in person or via Zoom); registration is open until midnight Monday, September 26. If you're interested, please contact the church office.

The Pastoral Perspective, *continued from Page 1*

Of course, what I really hope is that we are all committed to following the Way of Jesus, regardless of what some folks say online. If hanging a banner over our door expressing our welcome of immigrants and refugees or having a discreet rainbow stripe on our sign in the church yard ticks some people off, that’s their problem, not mine. I take satisfaction in the way our signs have been seen by our community as a statement. The positive feedback I have received has made me proud of this congregation. Our church has taken a stand, not for the sake of being woke, but as proud citizens of the kingdom of God.

I think that’s a good thing to be known for, don’t you?

Yours faithfully, *Steve*

OUR MISSION NEAR AND FAR



Support LISTEN'S Harvest Match Donations Welcome by September 27

As Greater Lebanon continues to struggle with food insecurity, rising costs, and other persistent challenges, FCC strives to support the work of all our local social-service organizations.

This month, in lieu of the usual food donations to our shopping cart, we are asking for financial contributions for LISTEN Community Services' Harvest Match. A generous donor has offered LISTEN this \$25,000 matching gift in September in support of its food programs.

Please consider contributing any amount by cash or check (payable FCC, memo "Harvest Match") by September 27, and we'll send LISTEN the total by the end of the month.

The 2022 Lebanon CROP Walk

Sunday, October 9, at 12:30 pm

Begun in 1969 as a single walk in Bismarck, ND, the CROP Hunger Walk has long been a national project run by Church World Service. Happening year-round, CROP Walks across the country raise about \$9 million annually to fight food insecurity and poverty worldwide.

This year's walk will once again happen in person, and all are welcome to walk. Contributions should be made online (not through FCC).

FCC will offer light food and refreshments to all participants on the front lawn, renewing our long tradition of post-walk fellowship and hospitality.

YOU can help in any or all of these ways...

Walk!—Walk on your own or gather a small group of family or friends.

Serve!—Contribute food or help with post-walk fellowship (*details TBD*).

Donate!—Sponsor an individual walker, or give online at crophungerwalk.org/.



www.crophungerwalk.org

Questions? Contact the church office or visit www.crophungerwalk.org.



OUR MISSION NEAR AND FAR

SUMMERTIME WORSHIP (*previous page*). After deacon Chris Chase preached on August 14, Steve Silver returned from vacation and rewarding study leave to lead two weeks of outdoor worship—with good ol’ coffee hour afterward!

CAMP-ICOPIA! Dan Weiser and Elizabeth Borowsky brought in Elizabeth’s siblings Emmanuel (violin) and Frances (cello) and conductor (and *saw virtuoso*) Glee Charlestream for a vibrant week of camp with 20 fine young musicians.



Meet Our Epilogos Students!



Sara



Gabriela

Each year half of our Lenten Lunch Bag collection funds scholarships through Epilogos Charities, serving the town and school of San Jose Villanueva, El Salvador. (The other half supports WISE of the Upper Valley.) FCC’s 2021 donation has been helping two students—Sara Meléndez has just finished 10th grade, while Gabriela Stefany has now made it to her senior year. Congratulations to both!

Thanks for so generously supporting this important relationship each year! For more information about Epilogos Charities, please visit www.epilogos.org.

MUSIC AT THE MEETINGHOUSE



**Music
at the
Meetinghouse**

FALL CONCERTS!

All in the Sanctuary. Masks, distanced seating, and vaccination required.

The Anonymous Coffeehouse—Fridays, Sept. 16, Oct. 14 and 28, Nov. 11 and 25, all at 7:30 pm

This popular community venue for live local music returns! Conceived as an informal “listening room” for emerging musicians, each show features several acoustic acts. Patrons come and go as they please; baked goods and non-alcoholic drinks available. *Free admission. For performers and more, visit anoncoffee.org/.*

Will Ögmundson, Piano—Sunday, September 25, at 3:00 pm

Our longtime friend Will Ögmundson has joined the Upper Valley Music Center’s faculty as collaborative pianist, and to celebrate we’re hosting this Sunday-afternoon recital of original compositions and favorite repertoire. Don’t miss this chance to enjoy Will’s brilliant playing and engaging performance style!

Admission cost TBD; for more, visit uvmusic.org/event/faculty-concert-william-ogmundson.

Alicia Casey, Violin, and Annemieke McLane, Piano—Saturday, October 15, at 4:00 pm

These two excellent musicians, both on the faculty at UVMC, share a program sponsored by Vermont Violins. *Admission cost TBD; visit uvmusic.org/event/faculty-concert-alicia-casey-violin-and-annemieke-mclane-piano.*

Camerata New England—Saturday, October 22, at 7:00 pm

Violinist Omar Chen Güey, cellist Linda Galvan, and pianist Hannah Shields—performing for the first time since the pandemic shutdown—will share music of Johannes Brahms, W. A. Mozart, and Pablo de Sarasate. The program will also feature some of the young students from the Camerata Strings Program.

Admission cost TBD; for more details, visit www.cameratanewengland.org/.

Classicopia: Dan Weiser, Piano, and Anna Pelczer, Viola—Sunday, October 23, at 2:00 pm

Dan Weiser returns with Anna Pelczer, a guest violist from Germany, for a selection of music by women composers. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; for more, visit classicopia.org.*

Rachel Clemente, Harp—Saturday, October 29, at 7:00 pm

UVMC presents Rachel Clemente, who has established herself in the regional folk scene with traditional Scottish repertoire. *Admission cost TBD; visit uvmusic.org/event/harp-workshop-concert-with-rachel-clemente.*

The Balourdet Quartet—Saturday, November 12, at 4:00 pm

After presenting an online performance in 2020, UVMC brings back this superb Boston-based ensemble for a live master class and concert. *Admission cost TBD; visit uvmusic.org/event/balourdet-quartet-performance.*

Classicopia: Dan Weiser, Piano, and Diego Carneiro, Cello—Sunday, November 13, at 2:00 pm

Ecuadoran cellist Diego Carneiro joins pianist Dan Weiser for a Latin-American-inspired program. *Adults \$20, FCC members \$15, children free; for more, visit classicopia.org.*

AND COMING IN DECEMBER... UVMC’s Holiday Music Festival, Classicopia’s Four-Hand Holiday, the Bel Canto Chamber Singers, and our annual Messiah Sing!

First Congregational Church of Lebanon

Weekly Worship and Church School: Sundays, 10:00 am • Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9-12
10 South Park Street, P.O. Box 230, Lebanon, NH 03766 • 603-448-4281 • church@fccleb.org • www.fccleb.org
Rev. Stephen R. Silver: silver@fccleb.org • Music: music@fccleb.org • Newsletter Submissions: church@fccleb.org



First Congregational Church of Lebanon

10 South Park Street
PO Box 230
Lebanon, NH 03766

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**SEPTEMBER 11
KICK-OFF
SUNDAY**

Join us to start a new school year!

**ESAU MCCAULLEY'S
READING WHILE BLACK**

*Weekly Book Group on Zoom
Starts Wednesday, October 5*

Support
LISTEN'S Harvest Match

*Contributions Welcome by
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First Congregational Church of Lebanon

The Rev. Stephen R. Silver, Pastor

Ernie Drown, Organist and Choir Director • Nancy Parsons, Children's Community Corner

Jon Scott, Chair of Church Council • Linda Gerlach, Chair of Deacons • Barbara Jones, Moderator

Brian Clancy, Church Administrator

603-448-4281 • church@fccleb.org • prayer@fccleb.org • music@fccleb.org • www.fccleb.org